

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00055 110124Z

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ACTION CU-04

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1232

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF USLO PERSONNEL OUTSIDE PEKING

REF: STATE 003948

1. REQUESTS FOR PERMISSION TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE PEKING HAVE FOR MOST PART BEEN ROUTINELY GRANTED FOR THOSE AREAS GENERALLY OPEN TO FOREIGN VISITORS. THERE IS GRAY AREA, HOWEVER, WHERE SPONSORED GROUPS MAY BE TAKEN BUT TRAVEL BY INDIVIDUAL OFFICER MIGHT BE "INCONVENIENT." FOR EXAMPLE, ANDERSON ACCOMPANIED WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS ON EXTENSIVE TOUR OF INDUSTRIAL NORTHEAST WHILE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT'S CLARKE WAS TURNED DOWN FOR SOLO VISIT TO SAME CITIES. WE EXPECT THAT SIMILAR SITUATIONS COULD ARISE IN FUTURE WITH AREAS SUCH AS KWEILIN AND INNER MONGOLIA WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL SPECIAL VISITORS BUT INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS OFTEN TURNED DOWN.

2. USLO SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT DISCUSSION WITH CSC/PRC ON ESCORTS QUESTION NOT FOCUS SOLELY ON QUESTION OF TRAVEL TO AREAS OTHERWISE NOT ACCESSIBLE TO USLO OFFICERS. MORE IMPORTANT, PERHAPS, IS ACCESS TO PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH BROADEN OUR CONTACTS AND THEREFORE OUR ABILITY TO ASSIST THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN GENERAL. PLATT'S EXPERIENCE WITH SWIMMERS AND PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA AND MCKINELY'S TRAVEL WITH ARCHAEOLOGISTS ARE BUT THREE CASES IN POINT. WE NOW HAVE CONTACTS IN CULTURAL CIRCLES WHICH MAY BE USEFUL IN PLANNING FOR POSSIBLE VISIT BY YIN CH'ENG-CHUNG AND IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT.

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3. FINALLY, DEPARTMENT SHOULD FORCEFULLY MAKE POINT TO CSC/PRC THAT CHINESE WELCOME USLO ESCORTS AND FIND THEM USEFUL GO BETWEEN IN HOST ORGANIZATION-VISITING DELEGATION

RELATIONSHIP. SINCE MANY DELEGATIONS ARE FIRST TIME VISITORS TO PRC, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INSTANCES IN WHICH THE VISITING DELEGATIONS MAKES DEMANDS FOR INTERVIEWS OR VISITS TO PLACES WHICH CHINESE SIMPLY NOT PREPARED TO GRANT. USLO ESCORTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ADVISE DELEGATION LEADER WHEN TO BACK OFF AND WHEN TO PRESS. PRC ESCORTS NORMALLY CONVEY THEIR VIEWS THROUGH USLO ESCORT WITH WHOM THEY ARE BETTER ACQUAINTED. OBVIOUSLY, CHINESE LANGUAGE CAPABILITY OF USLO ESCORT OFFICER AND KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF TRAVELLING IN CHINA IS MAJOR ASSET TO THOSE GROUPS WHO DO NOT HAVE SUCH EXPERTISE AMONG MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION.
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